



North Port Oval Development

Help grow female participation in sports through expanded facilities

The reserve is a vital part of the Port Melbourne open space network and holds historical significance for the sporting community.

What is the ask?

Council is requesting the Australian Government commit to partnership with the Victorian Government to purchase and develop the Australia Post site adjacent to Northport Oval (NPO), to ensure adequate sporting facilities are available to meet increased demand due to population growth and increased female participation.

What is the issue that this initiative will address?

NPO has been home to the Port Melbourne Cricket Club (PMCC) and Port Melbourne Football Club (PMFC) for 150 years, both sharing the ground for their respective seasons. Growth in numbers through increased female participation in both sports and the introduction of AFLW has meant that it is becoming more difficult to share the site. Council has limited public space and all other grounds are heavily utilised, therefore there is no opportunity to relocate either club.

North Port Oval Development

The Council Plan has a Council indicator to grow female and gender diverse sporting participation outcomes. Both the Port Melbourne Cricket Club and the Port Melbourne Football Club are looking to meet these outcomes.

Open Space and sports facilities will remain a constant opportunity and challenge as Fishermans Bend continues to develop.

What is Council proposing?

The area of land adjacent to NPO is the current Australia Post site. If this parcel of land is developed as an open space and sports facility, then alterations to the use of NPO could occur in consultation with Council and both sports clubs.

Developing the area of land and therefore also facilitating development opportunities of NPO will attract visitors from across the region, state and country, and increase participation, particularly women.

How does initiative align with the Council Plan and Victorian/Australian Government priorities?

Council:

[Council Plan 2021-31](#) – Inclusive Port Phillip – A City that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.

- We will provide high-quality sport and recreation infrastructure designed for shared community use that enables people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to participate, including major projects such as JL Murphy, Lagoon Reserve, North Port Oval, RF Julier, Port Melbourne Netball Courts, Wattie Watson Oval and other sports field lighting and minor recreation infrastructure renewals, subject to available budget funding.
- We will partner with local sporting clubs, schools and recreation providers to facilitate participation in recreation and leisure activities to enable everyone in our community to be more active.
- We will partner with sport and recreation providers to improve access and gender equity within their programs.

This project is consistent with outcomes in the [Sports and Recreation Strategy 2015-2024](#).

Victorian Government:

The project supports the following:

- The Victorian Government's commitment to increasing the number of women and girls participating in sport and active recreation, from grassroots through to senior leadership roles.

- Sport and Recreation Victoria's work to inspire women and girls to participate and become leaders in sport at all levels.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria initiatives that create more participation opportunities for all Victorians, including building a more sustainable and inclusive sport and recreation sector
- Victorian Government's support to under-represented groups experiencing barriers to participation in sport and recreation.

Australian Government:

The Australian Government has a clear and bold vision for sport in Australia – to ensure we are the world's most active and healthy nation, known for our integrity and sporting success. Sport 2030 has four key priority areas that will, when fully implemented, create a platform for sporting success through to 2030 and beyond. The priorities are:

- Build a more active Australia – More Australians, more active, more often;
- Achieving sporting excellence – National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success;
- Strengthening Australia's sport industry – A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.
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How does the initiative assist the community to recover from COVID-19?

Developing the area of land and therefore also facilitating development opportunities of NPO will attract visitors from across the region, state and Country.

Significant participation and wellbeing opportunities will be created as a result of this project, including support for females, CALD communities and juniors. Players, spectators, and volunteers will be supported to get involved and be active, create a sense of local community, and enhance their mental and physical wellbeing.

Cost and current status?

Cost

The cost is subject to a detailed cost analysis. Council is requesting Victorian Government commit to purchasing and developing the Australia Post site adjacent to North Port Oval.

Status

The Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal plans have indicated the site as a green space and Council encourages this to be a sports ground to accommodate the local community.